

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
/035 W

-----200823Z 098331 /15

R 200223Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7294

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3143

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, MY

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND OTHER ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS

1. "WATAN", A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY UMNO OLD-GUARD SPOKESMAN  
KHIR JOHARI, RECENTLY EDITORIALY ATTACKED FINANCE MINISTER  
TENGKU RAZALEIGH DIRECTLY AND OTHER ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS  
INDIRECTLY ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES. RAZALEIGH WAS ATTACKED  
FOR HIS COMMENTS LAST YEAR ON "MINI-NATIONALIZATION" AND HIS  
ROLE IN PASSING THE PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT AND  
ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS  
IN GERNAL WERE CRITICIZED FOR THEIR ACTIONS ON THE INDUSTRIAL  
COORDINATION ACT AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON INVESTMENT.

2. SIGNIFICANTLY THE EDITORIAL WAS THE FIRST PUBLISHED ARTICLE  
LINKING RAZALEIGH WITH DETAINEES SAMAD ISMAIL AND FORMER DEPUTY  
MINISTERS ABDULLAH AHMAD AND ABDULLAH MAJID WHO ARE BEING HELD  
UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT FOR PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH  
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THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FOUR WITH EACH OTHER IS WELL KNOWN AND  
COMMENTED ON IN PRIVATE

3. COMMENT: THE ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS IN GENERAL HAVE BEEN  
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UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK FOR ABOUT THE LAST YEAR. RAZALEIGH,  
WHO WAS CLOSELY TIED WITH THE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTERS AND  
SAMAD ISMAIL, HAS SUFFERED A LOSS OF INFLUENCE DURING THE  
PERIOD AND WAS SACKED FROM HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF PETRONAS  
LAST FALL. THE RECENT "WATAN" ATTACK APPARENTLY REPRESENTS THE  
UMNO OLD-GUARD ATTEMPT TO KEEP RAZALEIGH ON THE RUN AND  
MINIMIZE HIS INFLUENCE IN THE PARTY AS WELL AS WITHIN THE

GOVERNMENT AND TO DILUTE THE INFLUENCE OF THE ECONOMIC  
NATIONALISTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009